

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-07 MC-02 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 /091 W

----- 064487

R 261845Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5786

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN SEAMEN FROM IRANIAN SHIPS;
ALLEGATIONS RE TRANSSHIPMENT OF ARMS.

REF: TEHRAN 5112; NEW DELHI 8351; BOMBAY 1418 (NOTAL)

1. BARNES PRIVATELY CONFIRMS EARLIER INFORMATION FROM TRADE UNION SOURCES THAT HE WAS POSTURING FOR REASONS OF INTERNAL TRADE UNION POLITICS INVOLVING A PRO-CPI FACTION, AND THAT ALLEGATION ABOUT TRANSSHIPMENT OF US ARMS FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN, WAS REPETITION OF A RUMOR (I.E., THE "OPEN SECRET").

2. TO "CLARIFY" EARLIER PRESS REPORTS, BARNES GAVE TIMES OF INDIA (BOMBAY EDITION, JULY 23) STORY WHICH MADE NO REFERENCE TO ALLEGATION RE TRANSSHIPMENT OF US ARMS TO PAKISTAN. STROY ATTRIBUTED UNION WITHDRAWAL OF SEAMEN TO FAILURE OF OWNERS TO INFORM CREWS SHIPS WERE CARRYING ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (AS WELL AS GRIEVANCES AGAINST SHIP'S OFFICERS). BARNES CLAIMS SEAMEN SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THIS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE,
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BUT BECAME AWARE OF IT ONLY AFTER THEY NOTED SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

TAKEN DURING LOADING AND UNLOADING. ACCORDING TO BARNES UNION HAS NO BAN ON INDIAN SEAMEN WORKING SHIPS CARRYING ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES IF THEY ARE SO INFORMED BEFORE SIGNING ON.

3. IRAN NIRU AND IRAN SHAR ONLY TWO IRANIAN SHIPS ON WHICH INDIAN SEAMEN WERE EMPLOYED.

4. BARNES VOLUNTEERED HE WANTED TO CLOSE THE MATTER AND TO REASSURE US THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED IT WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

5. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIALS SAY THAT THEY KNEW NOTHING OF BARNES ACTIONS OR THE ASSOCIATED ALLEGATION RE TRANSSHIPMENT OF US ARMS TO PAKISTAN.

6. BARNES INFORMS HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO THE US BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4 AT THE INVITATION OF THE AFL-CIO WITH WHICH HE WANTS TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Executive Order: GS MOYNIHAN
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